



NEWS RELEASE

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For Additional Information

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BLM-Las Cruces Expands Fire Restrictions

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management has expanded a Fire Restriction Order for BLM-managed public land in southwest New Mexico, according to BLM-Las Cruces Field Office Manager Amy Lueders.

Effective May 17, restrictions also will prohibit use of solid, compressed gas or liquid petroleum fuels. The restriction prohibits using petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns and heating devices.

On April 5 the BLM issued a fire restriction order prohibiting:

- burning of solid fuels, except for petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices;
- smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building;
- welding or using an acetylene torch with an open flame;
- operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester, a fire extinguisher of not-less-than 8-ounce capacity and a round-point shovel, and
- using explosives on all BLM-managed public land.

The April 5 and May 17 fire restrictions apply on all BLM-managed land in Hidalgo, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra, Grant and Otero counties. Firefighters and persons with permits authorizing the otherwise prohibited acts are exempt from the order.

The order applies to more than 5 million acres of public land in the six southwestern New Mexico counties. Violators may be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 12 months. The BLM-Las Cruces last issued such an order in May 2000.